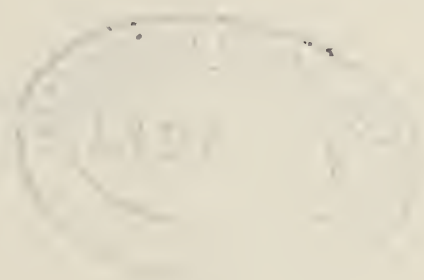



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ULVERSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1954.



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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ULVERSTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1954.

Virginia House,

ULVERSTON.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ulverston Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area, in acres	127,485
Population - Census, 1951	17,244
- Registrar - General's estimate of home population, mid 1954	16,410
Number of inhabited houses	5,558
Rateable Value	£85,458
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£330.5.1.

The district is entirely rural in character, the northern portion being typical Lakeland Country with Lakes and fells merging into the more southern portion which extends to the coast and forms part of the northern shores of Morecambe Bay. Two Lakes, Conistion and Esthwaite, as well as two-thirds of the shores of Lake Windermere are wholly contained in the district.

The principal industry is agriculture, with the hotel and catering industry playing a prominent part during the summer season.

The weather conditions during 1954 should not be allowed to pass without comment, it being a year of exceptionally heavy rainfall and exceptionally little sunshine.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The principal vital statistics for 1954 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

Of the 197 births registered, 97 were males and 100 were females. There were 6 illegitimate births 2 males and 4 females. The number of deaths registered shows an increase over the previous years figures and exceeds the number of births for 1954.

Approximately 74% of the deaths were in persons of 65 years of age or over and the main causes of death were:- Heart disease 97, Malignant growths 24 and Vascular lesions of the nervous system 35.

Year.	Live Births.		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths.		Maternal Mortality.		Infant Mortality.			
	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation.	Number regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.	No. of deaths regis- tered.	Rate per 1,000 live births.
1954	197	<sup>x</sup> 12.0	228	<sup>x</sup> 14.0	6	30	Nil	Nil	8	41	6	30
1953	234	14.3	194	11.9	6	25	1	4.17	3	21	3	13
1952	247	15.1	196	12.0	4	16	Nil	Nil	1	16	1	16
1951	224	13.5	271	16.3	3	13	Nil	Nil	5	22	3	13
1950	232	13.9	228	13.6	7	29	Nil	Nil	4	17	2	9
1949	234	14.0	254	15.2	8	33	Nil	Nil	5	21	Nil	Nil
Average 5 years 1949-1953	-	14.2	-	13.8	-	23	-	-	-	19	-	10

<sup>x</sup> Live birth rate (comparability factor, 1.14) = 13.7 per 1,000.  
Death rate (comparability factor, 0.82) = 11.4 per 1,000.



The table below shows comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales, 160 smaller towns and this district.

The rates quoted are for 1,000 population in all cases.

Year	England and Wales.		160 Smaller towns 25,000 - 50,000.		Ulverston Rural District.	
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.
1954	15.2	11.3	15.4	11.0	13.7	11.4
1953	15.5	11.4	15.7	11.3	15.6	9.6
1952	15.3	11.3	15.5	11.2	16.4	9.7
1951	15.5	12.5	16.7	12.5	14.7	13.2
1950	15.8	11.6	16.7	11.6	15.2	11.2

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:- J.L.WILD, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,  
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:- Medical Officer of Health -  
Dalton-in-Furness Urban District,  
Grange-over-Sands Urban District,  
Ulverston Urban District.

Divisional Medical Officer -  
Health Division No. 1 -  
Lancashire County Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:- H.C.CLAYDON, Certificate -Royal Sanitary  
Institute. Certificate of Royal  
Sanitary Institute - Meat and other  
Foods.

Sanitary Inspector:- H.E.BINGHAM, Certificate-Royal Sanitary  
Institute. Certificate of Royal  
Sanitary Institute - Meat and other  
Foods.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The townships to the west and south of Ulverston derive their water supplies from the Barrow undertaking and those adjacent to Grange from the Grange undertaking. The water in both cases is treated before going into supply. During 1954 chlorinating plants were installed and brought into operation at Coniston and Hawkshead and that at Broughton West was under construction and expected to be in operation early in the New Year.

Eight samples from the public supplies were submitted to bacteriological examination and six of them proved to be satisfactory. Twelve samples were taken from private supplies of which eleven proved to be satisfactory.

No shortage of water was experienced except at Ravenstown (Lower Holker) when the military camp was in use.

Water Supplies to Houses.

TOWNSHIP.	<u>From Public Mains.</u>		<u>From Private wells and springs etc.</u>			
	Direct to		By means of			
	No. of Dwelling houses.	No. of population.	No. of dwelling houses.	No. of population.	No. of dwelling houses.	No. of population.
Aldingham	279	942	-	-	5	18
Allithwaite Lower	472	1294	-	-	42	164
Allithwaite Upper	216	724	-	-	10	36
Angerton	-	-	-	-	5	21
Blawith	-	-	-	-	37	115
Broughton East	28	106	-	-	25	97
Broughton West	276	847	-	-	39	137
Cartmel Fell	20	65	-	-	98	265
Claife	143	383	-	-	31	119
Colton	21	76	-	-	300	1010
Coniston	296	923	2	7	43	165
Dunnerdale	-	-	-	-	61	180
Egton with Newland	127	326	-	-	162	546
Haverthwaite	205	591	4	6	55	249
Holker Lower	425	1394	-	-	46	183
Kirkby	388	1173	-	-	41	163
Hawkshead	209	555	-	-	19	81
Lowick	34	115	-	-	44	157
Mansriggs	1	5	-	-	10	40
Osmotherley	45	112	-	-	46	156
Pennington	389	1226	-	-	8	33
Satterthwaite	-	-	-	-	Private main 106	321
Skelwith	-	-	-	-	92	256
Staveley	101	264	-	-	34	110
Subberthwaite	9	30	-	-	15	47
Torver	-	-	-	-	Private main 24 36	196
Urswick	378	1149	1	3	5	19

Drainage and Sewerage.

Particulars of existing methods of disposal of sewage in the various townships of the Rural District are given in the table below. There is little change from the previous year but new works, consisting of tanks and filters, have been erected at Spark Bridge. (Egton).

Sewage Disposal.

<u>Township.</u>	<u>Village.</u>	<u>Method of Disposal.</u>
Aldingham.	Leece	Sewage tank with land irrigation.
	Gleaston	Sewage tank
	Scales	Two sewage tanks with overflow to land.
	Baycliff	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Newbiggin	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Allithwaite Lower.	Allithwaite	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to sea.
	Cartmel	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to River Eea.
Allithwaite Upper.	Lindale	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to River Winster.
	Newton	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to stream.
Broughton East	Field Broughton	Sewage tank.
Broughton West.	Broughton-in-Furness	Sewage tank with overflow to tidal water of the River Duddon.
	Foxfield	Tidal waters of the River Duddon.
Claife.	Near Sawrey	Sewage tanks.
	Far Sawrey	Two sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
	Colthouse	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Colton.	Bouth	Sewage tank with overflow to stream
	Oxenpark	Sewage tank with overflow to land.
Coniston.	Coniston	Five large sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
Egton.	Greenodd	Tidal waters of Morecambe Bay.
	Pennybridge	Sewage tank.
	Sparkbridge	Tanks and filters with outfall to river.
Haverthwaite.	Haverthwaite	Sewage tank with overflow to river.
	Backbarrow	Sewage tank with overflow to River Leven.
Hawkshead.	Hawkshead	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Outgate	Two sewage tanks with outfall to land and stream.
	Hannakin	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Holker Lower.	Cark	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Ravenstown	Sewage tank with filters.
	Flookburgh	Pumping plant discharging sewage to enlarged works at Ravenstown with outfall to sea.
Kirkby Ireleth	Sandside	Tidal waters of River Duddon.
	Beckside	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Chapples	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Soutergate	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.
	Marsh Side	Sewage tank with outfall to tidal waters.



Lowick.	Lowick Green	Sewage tank with outfall to River Crake.
Osmotherley.	Boehive	Tank with outfall to stream.
	Three Bridges	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Pennington.	Swarthmoor	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
	Trinkeld	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
	Loppergarth	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, and outfall to stream.
	Cross-a-Moor	Sewage tank with outfall to land.
Satterthwaite.	Satterthwaite	Private sewer to works with outfall to stream.
Staveley.	Staveley	Private sewer, tank with outfall to stream.
Torver.	Torver	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Urswick.	Great Urswick	Sewage tank with outfall to tarn.
	Little Urswick	Sewage tank with outfall to tarn.
	Stainton	Sewage tank with outfall to land.
	Bardsea	Sewage tank with outfall to sea.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Details regarding the inspection of food, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year, due to a Salmonella organism.

#### HOUSING.

During the year 49 houses were erected by the Council and 26 by private builders.

At 31st December, 47 houses were under construction by the Council, disposed as follows:- Backbarrow 14, Coniston 5, Lindale 4, Kirkby-in-Furness 20, Flookburgh 4. Further schemes are contemplated at Hawkshead, Cartmel, Lindale, Sparkbridge, Swarthmoor, Coniston, Flookburgh and Kirkby-in-Furness.

The prospective resumption of slum clearance necessitated the revision of earlier surveys and the Sanitary Inspectors had their work well in hand at the end of the year. In consequence there was a great increase in the number of inspections made.

#### Statutory Inspections and Proceedings.

##### Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	566
	(b)	Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose.	827
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1. above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	Nil
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	Nil
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	205



4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	301
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Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	43
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Action under statutory powers during the year:-

1.	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil
(b)	Number of dwelling houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit:-	
	(i) By owners	Nil
	(ii) By local authority in default of owners.	Nil
2.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	19
(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
	(i) By owners	17
	(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
3.	Proceedings under sections 11, 12, 13 and 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	Nil

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV. - Overcrowding.

(a)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.	Nil
(b)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	32
	Number of persons concerned in such cases.	163

Housing Acts, 1949-54 - Improvement grants, etc.

		Schemes of private bodies or individuals.	Schemes of local authority.
(a)	Number of Schemes submitted (a) by private individuals to local authority	15	-
	(b) by local authority to Ministry	-	-
	Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	15	-
(b)	Number of Schemes finally approved	12	-
	Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	12	-
	Number of additional separate dwellings to be provided under these approved schemes	3	-
(c)	Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year	-	-
(d)	Any other action taken under the Act.	Nil	

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the numbers of cases of the notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the Rural District during the five years 1949-1953, compared with the numbers in 1954.

Disease.	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	<u>1954</u>		
						Number of cases.	Removed to hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet fever.	23	46	10	21	25	15	6	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Measles.	12	237	171	70	185	171	0	0
Whooping cough.	30	42	77	36	13	33	1	0
Puerperal fever and pyrexia.	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Pneumonia.	12	7	21	19	20	6	0	0
Erysipelas.	3	3	5	1	2	2	0	0
Dysentery.	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Polio-Encephalitis.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poliomylitis.	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Food Poisoning.	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
TOTALS.	83	336	288	149	245	230	9	0

The outbreak of measles occurred during the 3rd quarter of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table shows the new cases and mortality during 1954.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
35-	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65-	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
75 & upwards.	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Totals.	8	5	0	1	2	1	1	0
	13		1		3		1	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in Ulverston Rural District Residents during the past 12 years.

Year.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1943	11	14	3	5	3	3	1	0
1944	12	13	5	4	4	5	1	0
1945	5	5	5	7	1	3	0	0
1946	9	3	2	2	2	1	1	1
1947	6	8	6	7	1	2	0	0
1948	9	10	5	3	1	0	0	2
1949	11	6	5	6	1	2	0	0
1950	9	4	5	3	3	0	1	0
1951	12	5	2	3	2	1	0	1
1952	8	4	2	3	1	0	1	0
1953	6	3	2	1	3	1	1	0
1954	8	5	0	1	2	1	1	0



FACTORIES ACT. 1937 and 1938.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	33	21	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	59	24	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS. 1948 and 1951.

It was not found necessary to take any action under those acts during the year.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the Rural District Council, particularly the Sanitary Inspectors, for their unfailing courtesy and help.

The report of the Sanitary Inspectors is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1954.

We have pleasure in submitting our Annual Report on the work carried out by the Department during 1954.

Housing.

In various circulars issued during the year the Ministry of Housing and Local Government urged Local Authorities to resume the full exercise of their powers under the Housing Act, 1936 and gave guidance as to the use of amended legislation under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. On receipt of these circulars it was necessary to revise the survey of unfit houses made in earlier years so that up to date information would be available when necessary. At the end of the year 55 houses in the Coniston, Kirkby and Haverthwaite areas which were in confirmed Clearance Areas before the war were still occupied, and six-monthly licences permitting continued occupation were in force. Apart from these properties, there appeared to be 202 other dwellings suitable for clearance on Section 11 procedure, and action in respect of these will be commenced at an early date.

Meat Inspection.

On the 3rd July, 1954 meat became decontrolled and five of the private slaughterhouses which had been in use before the war were re-licenced by the Council for killing animals for human consumption. This has necessitated frequent visits to inspect the meat produced in these establishments and it has not proved possible to confine some of these visits within normal working hours.

MEAT INSPECTION.

No. of visits made:- 257

Carcases inspected and condemned within the district.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	200	94	32	1572	329
Number inspected	200	94	32	1572	329
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	1	4	4	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	22	26	2	204	15
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	11%	28.7%	18.75%	13.23%	4.5%
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	4	9	-	-	3
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	2%	9.6%	-	-	1.0%

Water Supplies.

By the end of 1954 Chlorinating Plants were in operation for the public water supplies serving the parishes of Coniston and Hawkshead, and there was every likelihood of the Broughton West scheme being completed early in the coming year.

No water shortages due to drought were experienced in any parish during the year.



The scheme to supply the Lakeside Area from a storage reservoir at Boretree Tarn continued slowly, and the provision of piped water to most of the properties can be looked for in 1955.

The improvements to public water supplies included extensions of existing mains from Chappells to Grizebeck and Newby Bridge to Crook Hill Caravan Site, enlarged storage capacity at Hawkshead and Broughton Beck, improvements to mains at Boarbank (Allithwaite) and Sawrey.

#### WATER SAMPLING

Samples of water taken for Bacteriological Examination:

Public Supply 8. Results: 2 unsatisfactory: 6 satisfactory.

Private Supply 12. Results: 1 unsatisfactory: 11 satisfactory.

#### Sewerage.

Due no doubt to financial difficulties in the matter of capital expenditure, no schemes were embarked upon for substantial improvements in sewage disposal. Several schemes were being prepared but in most it seems doubtful that approval will be given in the very near future. As we have stressed in previous years, while the provision of new improved water supplies is a laudable achievement, regard must be paid to the necessity for proper disposal of resultant sewage.

#### Control of Milk Supplies.

Although the control of the production of milk is now largely in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the supervision of dairies and dairymen has been maintained during the year. More producers have continued to dispose of their milk rounds to dairymen and it seems that this trend is likely to continue.

Of 12 milk samples submitted for B. Tuberculosis examination none were found to be affected and although this evidence is not conclusive it seems that the eradication of tuberculous milk has been largely accomplished.

#### Caravan Sites.

During the year considerable progress was made in improving the amenities at many of the caravan sites in the area and it is intended to pursue this policy in the remaining poorly served sites, 4 of the larger sites now have ablution blocks and negotiations are proceeding for similar provision in respect of 3 other sites. The summer season was not favourable to caravanners and consequently less use of the sites was made than in previous years. Frequent inspections revealed that generally speaking no nuisance was caused by holiday makers, and the refuse problem was solved when the sites were included in the collection service. No conditions were observed which would prejudice the renewal of licences, and where any irregularities were discovered the site owners were anxious to remedy them.

#### Refuse Removal.

The refuse collection service continued satisfactorily during the year, but owing to the steady increase in the scope of the service due in part to the erection of new houses, it did not prove possible to serve the area without some overtime being worked. A solution to this problem is expected with the acquisition of a large collection vehicle for the more populated Southern parishes, but it will still be necessary to work overtime at some periods, mainly after heavy snow and again following the periods of the workmens holidays. One of the main problems has been sickness amongst the workmen, as in order to maintain a regular service it is essential for the entire staff to be on duty. The costs of refuse collection and disposal continue to rise and whilst every effort is made to restrict expenditure, little respite can be looked for while wages continue to increase.



Inspection and Supervision of Food.

We are pleased to report that no outbreaks of illness resulting from the consumption of unfit foodstuffs were notified during the year. In an area serving holiday makers in addition to the resident population, we consider this to be commendable, and great credit is reflected upon the caterers in the district.

Rodent Control.

The modern methods of Rodent Control approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries have proved very successful in keeping infestations to a minimum. In accordance with the conditions laid down by that Ministry for 50% aid all sewerage systems and refuse depots have been dealt with and systematic search of private dwellings has been proceeding continuously. The Rodent Operator has been fully occupied on this essential work.

RODENT CONTROL.

Works effected under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, are as follows.

	Local Authority.	<u>Type of Property.</u>			Total.
		Dwelling house.	Agric.	Business Premises.	
Inspection after notification.	-	44	-	3	47
Survey or otherwise.	59	870	96	15	1040
Number of properties found to be infested, and treatment carried out.	30	388	-	6	424

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Inspection of premises other than dwelling houses.

	<u>No. of visits.</u>	
Bakchouses	18	
Camping Sites	21	
Dairies	12	
Factories	3	
Food Preparing & storage Premises	52	
Infectious disease	17	
Piggeries	18	
Public Houses	12	
Rats and Mice & other vermin	31	(excluding visits by Rodent Operator).
Schools	24	

We are,

Yours faithfully,

H. C. CLAYDON.

H. E. BINGHAM.

Sanitary Inspectors.

